

Griff Still Wants Mayer If He Isn't Federal---Young Milan Comes Here

GRIFF STILL WANTS MAYER, BUT NOT IF HE HAS BECOME FED

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 27.—Sammy Mayer, who leaped from the Kansas City Blues to the Brook Feds, is not likely to join the Griffmen if he has signed a Federal League contract. The National Commission has already ruled that a player becomes automatically a free agent when his club fails to pay salary due him. Mayer claims that Kansas City owed him salary and so, with his room mate, Pete Compton, he jumped to the Feds. Compton was declared a free agent, but he agreed to return to organized baseball and is now a member of the Braves.

"If Mayer has signed with the Federal League, I don't want him," says Griffith. "If he hasn't signed, I'll give him a trial, as I hear he is a hitter. If he is a free agent and goes to the Feds, that's all right. It's his own funeral. It isn't for me to worry about. I expect to hear some word for him in a day or so. Then I'll know something."

Jack Ryan did not accompany the team here. He has a little scouting trip ahead of him that will keep him busy for three or four days. He is to give another glance at some Western League stars for whom drafts may be put in by the Old Fox.

In playing forty innings in three consecutive days, the Griffmen and White Sox hung up a new world's record in Chicago yesterday, according to George E. Moreland, the baseball authority, who set in the press box. The Detroit and Chicago club played thirty-two innings in three days a couple of years ago. The Cincinnati and Brooklyn club last spring played thirty frames in two days, bettering the previous two-day total of twenty-six, hung up in 1909 by Washington and St. Louis. Counting the final eleven-inning game with New York, the White Sox played fifty five innings in four days. The strain on the pitchers has been terrific, and it is not unlikely that the series ending Saturday will smash the meager chances of the White Sox in the pennant race.

Charlie Comiskey is expected to attempt to purchase Frank Baker from Connie Mack today. The Old Roman is determined to win the 1915 pennant, even if he has to buy Von Klueck, Von Hindenburg, Joe Joffre, Lord Kitchener, Teddy Roosevelt, and the Shade of Julius Caesar. The pennant just must fly at Comiskey Park, and so Connie Mack is in for a warm argument today. From now until the end of the season Harry Harper will be used now and then, particularly against teams who do not pitch to much with southpaw pitching. The youngster seems to have acquired considerable control since rejoining the team, and he is clamoring for work.

Colonel Hedges has asked Clark Griffith to use Walter Johnson next Sunday to bring out a large crowd. It is expected, therefore, that the big fellow will twirl the final combat here. Doc Ayers will probably pitch tomorrow's game.

Only three more contests are on the card for this trip. The Griffmen have won five and lost six so far. They expect to jump ahead in the total at the expense of the Browns. To do so the Griffmen must make a clean sweep here.

TODAY'S SPORTORIAL

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 27.—The American League season, drawing rapidly to a close, finds the Brownies still a big disappointment, and the outlook for 1916 holds small promise of anything better. Conditions over which Branch Rickey had no control whatever have interfered with his administration, but the Mound City fans question his wisdom in handling the material he had this year. Just now they are grumbling over Rickey's use of George Sisler, the Michigan University star. It is axiomatic in baseball that a man cannot play two positions as well as he can either. Sisler, who was an all around performer while in college, has played in the outfield, at first base, and in the box for the Brownies. He has made good wherever played, but Mound City fans believe that a real star of the first caliber is being ruined by being shifted from place to place. Rickey needs outfielders. Therefore, he has used Sisler in the garden. First base has been a weak spot all season. So Sisler has shone at the initial sack. Cursed with an in-and-out pitching staff, Rickey has had to send Sisler to the mound, with excellent results. But, meanwhile, Sisler is being injured by this constant shifting of his playing position. The fans resent this.

When Rickey replaced the scrappy Stovall, St. Louis looked for better things. Stovall had many friends, but they were willing to admit his shortcomings as a leader and were willing to listen to the claims of Rickey. The new manager cut right and left, made changes as he saw fit and received the wholehearted support of Colonel Hedges and the fans, who thought that at least first division honors were coming to the Brownies. But Rickey's changes availed nothing. The team lacked something vitally necessary to success. On paper it had hitters, runners, fielders, catchers, and pitchers. But on the field they seldom appeared. Now the fans blame Rickey for not getting the most out of a very fair collection of players.

Weiland, Lowdermilk, Koob, Hamilton, Sisler, there you have a good staff of twirlers, too many southpaws, but still a fine nucleus. Add a couple of right handers to assist Lowdermilk and a strong staff would plug up holes at first and third and a fair infield emerges. One capable outfielder would make that trio one of the best in the league. The fault with Rickey seems to be that his theoretical baseball fails to show anything when tested on the field. Time and time again his choice of pitchers against certain clubs has been bad. At any rate, that's what the writers here say. His choice of pinch hitters is also assailed. His system of running bases is criticized. There are the things which have kept the Brownies down in the second division rather than a lack of good players. Perhaps 1916 has better things in store for St. Louis. But Branch Rickey's theories will have to be canned before they appear.

Though they have no reward coming, the Griffmen are displaying plenty of spirit in their games on this trip. Even when defeated, they continue to fight to the end. The veterans seem to realize that they must make a good showing to entitle them to trials next spring. The best thing Manager Griffith has done this season has been to select new players for practically every position on the team. Even the most prosaic performer wants to hold his job. The most blasé veteran is waking up, kicking up his heels and shouting "A little more pep." No matter where they finish, you may count on the Griffmen to do their best down to the very end.

Next week the Griffmen start upon their final long home stay. Before it is concluded many new faces will be seen in the line-up. The Old Fox is striving to get a peek at some of his youngsters before another training trip opens. Just how good these newcomers will be is a question. But Washington fans will surely be interested in their trials, knowing that unheard of stars may be coming to the team.

Tigers Win From Red Sox in the Twelfth

DETROIT, Aug. 27.—Singles by Cobb and Veatch and Crawford's sacrifice in the twelfth inning won yesterday's game from the Red Sox, 7 to 6. Young's wild throw and Cobb's error in the ninth inning gave the Sox a lead, but the Tigers tied the count in the home half.

Douglas Proves His Own Batting Support

NEW YORK, Aug. 27.—It is getting to be a habit with Brooklyn pitchers to win their own games through pure slugging. Phil Douglas observed the custom yesterday afternoon at Ebbets Field and earned a victory over the

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MILAN'S BROTHER JOINS GRIFFMEN

Young Outfielder, Who Has Been With Western Association, Coming Here.

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 27.—Horace Milan, Zeb's younger brother, joined the Griffmen here today, and will accompany him to Washington Sunday night to get a trial in the outfield. He has been playing fine ball for the South McAlester, Okla., club, of the Western Association, and is eager to show Manager Griffith that he has improved since 1913. Two years ago, Horace Milan, fresh from school, joined the Griffmen here. He was a mere strapping teen and much too green. Griffith found a berth for him, but he did not hold it long. He has played with a dozen teams in the two years, and has developed physically very fast. He is fully as big as his famous brother now, and shows all the Milan characteristics.

"I'm going to look him over," said the Old Fox today, "and if he shows any promise I'm going to keep him. If he looks only a little as good as Zeb he'll be worth keeping, too."

Manager Griffith had a long conference last night with Fielder Jones, an old pal of his, now managing the Federal League team here. The slouters were on the same team with the Griffmen. The Old Fox sought information concerning the eligibility of Sammy Mayer, the former Kansas City outfielder, but reports fail.

Running along neck-and-neck for eleven innings without seeing a run for the pitcher, the Griffmen and White Sox finally cracked under the strain and the Griffmen romped ahead, winning in the thirteenth, 2 to 1, in their third successive contest in as many days. No such battles have been staged in Chicago in many years, and the fans went wild with delight when the two teams closed their very contest.

The great was the strain that when the White Sox cracked they all went to pieces. Joe Jackson booted a grounder, and threw badly. To make matters worse, four bases let the return three rolls to the home team's dugout. To cap the climax, Blackburne pulled a bone play that allowed the Griffmen to reach a position from which he could score easily on a short fly, deciding the combat. The machine which has been playing like a jitney on a snowy night, the faithful fans count find even strength enough for a feeble groan.

The twelfth promised nothing out of the ordinary as Foster fouled to John Collins, but like a lightning flash came the breaker in Milan's quarter to center. Joe Jackson walked all over the grounder, letting Zeb reach second. He headed for third and Jackson's attempt to steal was foiled through Eddie Collins. Buck Weaver, Bill Johns, and Reb Russell into the White Sox dugout. The peg was bad, but the collapse of the Sox infielders was worse and Milan hustled over the pan, putting the Griffmen ahead.

The White Sox took a sudden start in their half, Walter Johnson pitched into the clash, as he had the day before. Eddie Collins opened with a double to the right field corner, and a single pair of heels to keep the drive from being a triple. Empire Nallin failed to see Jackson swing for a third strike and walked him.

Manager Griffith grew nervous and summoned John Bull pen relieving Boehling, who had pitched a fine game of ball. Feich filed the bases with a clever bunt that staked Johnson and Shanks. Weaver fouled to Williams, the infield was in when Leibold, hitting for Johns, smashed one at McBride, Eddie Collins should have hit at the plate, but McBride juggled the bounder and had to get Leibold at first. Collins scored the tying run before Daly hoisted to Milan.

It remained for Rippy Williams to break up the game in the thirteenth, taking advantage of the trembling White Sox. Acosta rolled to Weaver, but Williams lifted a double to left. McBride rolled to Blackburne, who tried in vain to tag Williams on his way to third. Both runners were safe. Johnny son raised a foul fly. Nemo Leibold made a pretty running catch, and he should have dropped the ball. Williams darted for the plate with the catch, and easily scored.

Collins tossed while off balance, and his peg was wild. Moeller's fly to left ended the attack.

Boehling and Russell pitched a superb duel till the break came in the twelfth. Both southpaws had excellent control, sizing up their opponents' curves, without the errors neither would have been scored upon. Russell did not issue a pass, and Boehling had only two. Struck out by Russell, 3 by Boehling, as by Johnson, 1 by Miller-Meers, Nallin and Dineen. Time of game—1 hour and 16 minutes.

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Phillies Gradually Leave Field Behind

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 27.—Those Phillis made their few swats off Dale count, and polished off the Reds yesterday for the third straight time in the series. Score, 4 to 1.

Erskine Mayer, who has been a backslider for the last month, was a gutting comeback yesterday. He held the savage Rhinelanders to five hits that were well strewn about the nine innings. A home run from the bat of Right Fielder Griffith saved the losers the ignominy of a shut-out.

Mayer not only pitched excellently, but he unloosed a single in the eighth that put two runs across the plate and took all the doubt out of the result. The Phillis made seven hits off Dale, two of which were supplied by Mayer. Brooklyn won, but the best the Braves could do was to tie the Cubs. Pittsburgh laid out New York.

The Phillis enjoy the following advantage over their rivals in the race, which indicates that the Phillis are gradually drawing away from all their rivals excepting Brooklyn and Boston:

Brooklyn.....	7 1/2 games
Boston.....	4 games
Chicago.....	6 1/2 games
Pittsburgh.....	5 1/2 games
St. Louis.....	9 games
New York.....	10 1/2 games
Cincinnati.....	11 games

Marsans will be out of game for fortnight

CHICAGO, Aug. 27.—Armando Marsans, the Cuban infielder of the St. Louis Federal, will be out of the game for at least two weeks, according to the physicians attending him.

Marsans was spiked in the game with Chicago on Tuesday. It was the fourth game he had played in nearly two seasons, having been idle because of court action taken by the Cincinnati Reds, from which club he jumped to the Federal.

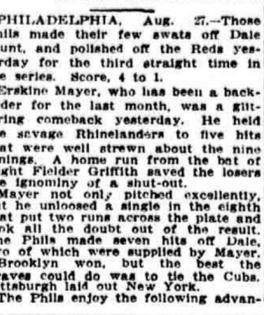
Chicago Fed Player Spikes His Own Head

CHICAGO, Aug. 27.—All spiking records were broken yesterday when Jimmy Smith, Cried shortstop, tripped when he leaped for a hot one off First Sacker Borton's bat, lost his balance and doubled backwards, wrenching the muscles of his neck and spiking himself in the back of the head. Smith was knocked out completely. He will be unable to play for an indefinite period.

Browns Get Fourth Straight From Macks

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 27.—The Browns counted their fourth straight over the Athletics, routing Bressler with ten runs and thirteen hits in five innings. In the fifth singles and three walks gave seven runs.

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